

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA
Civil Action No. 1:15-CV-559

CITY OF GREENSBORO, LEWIS A.)
BRANDON III, JOYCE JOHNSON,)
NELSON JOHNSON, RICHARD)
ALAN KORITZ, SANDRA SELF)
KORITZ, CHARLI MAE SYKES AND)
MAURICE WARREN II,)

Plaintiffs,)

v.)

ANSWER to AMENDED COMPLAINT

GUILFORD COUNTY BOARD OF)
ELECTIONS,)

Defendant,)

MELVIN ALSTON, JEAN BROWN,)
HURLEY DERRICKSON, STEPHEN)
GOLIMOWSKI, WAYNE GOODSON)
EARL JONES, JIM KEE, SHARON)
KASICA, and WILLIAM CLARK)
PORTER,)

Intervenor-Defendants.)

Defendant-Intervenors, Melvin Alston, Jean Brown, Hurley Derrickson, Stephen Golimowski, Wayne Goodson, Earl Jones, Jim Kee, Sharon Kasica, and William Clark Porter (“Defendant-Intervenors”), by and through their undersigned counsel, hereby submit this Answer to the Plaintiff’s Amended Complaint:

FIRST DEFENSE

Defendant-Intervenors answer the specific allegations of the Plaintiffs' Complaint as follows:

1. Session Law 2015-138, attached to the Complaint as Exhibit A speaks for itself and no further answer is necessary or appropriate. The balance of the averments in Paragraph 1 of the Complaint are hereby denied.

Parties

2. Admitted.
3. The first sentence of Paragraph 3 of the Complaint is admitted upon information and belief. The balance of Paragraph 3 is denied.
4. To the extent that Paragraph 4 states that Lewis A. Brandon III resides in a particular district, it is admitted upon information and belief. The balance of Paragraph 4 is denied.
5. To the extent that Paragraph 5 states that Richard Alan Koritz resides in a particular district, it is admitted upon information and belief. The balance of Paragraph 5 is denied.
6. To the extent that Paragraph 6 states that Richard Alan Koritz and Sandra Self Koritz reside in a particular district, it is admitted upon information and belief. The balance of Paragraph 6 is denied.

7. To the extent that Paragraph 7 states that Charli Mae Sykes resides in a particular district, it is admitted upon information and belief. The balance of Paragraph 7 is denied.
8. To the extent that Paragraph 8 states that Maurice Warren II resides in a particular district, it is admitted upon information and belief. The balance of Paragraph 7 is denied
9. Admitted.

Jurisdiction and Venue

10. Admitted.
11. To the extent that Paragraph 11 alleges that this Court has jurisdiction over Federal matters, it is admitted. The balance of Paragraph 11 is denied.
12. Intervenor-Defendants admit that the cited statutes speak for themselves and this Court has the authority to issue declaratory and injunctive relief. Except as specifically set forth herein, the balance of Paragraph 12 is denied.
13. The Intervenor-Defendants consent to venue in this District.
14. To the extent that Paragraph 14 calls for a legal conclusion, no response is necessary or appropriate. Except as specifically addressed herein, any remaining allegations of Paragraph 14 of the Complaint are denied.

Standing

15. Denied. By way of further answer, it is alleged that the City of Greensboro has not been injured, does not have organizational or association standing on behalf of its citizens, and cannot maintain this action otherwise on its own as a violation of equal protection.

16. Denied.

17. Denied.

The Legislative History of the Greensboro Act

18. House Bill 263, as ratified, speaks for itself and no further answer is required or necessary. Intervenor-Defendants have no knowledge of the remaining averments in Paragraph 18 of the Complaint concerning the procedural nature in which Senate Bill 36 was considered by the North Carolina General Assembly, and therefore deny the same.

19. Intervenor-Defendants admit that the legislative history of Senate Bill 36 is public record and speaks for itself. Intervenor-Defendants have no knowledge of the remaining averments in Paragraph 19 of the Complaint concerning the procedural nature in which Senate Bill 36 was considered by the North Carolina General Assembly, and therefore deny the same.

20. Intervenor-Defendants admit that the legislative history of Senate Bill 36 is public record and speaks for itself. Intervenor-Defendants have no knowledge of the remaining averments in Paragraph 20 of the Complaint concerning the procedural

nature in which Senate Bill 36 was considered by the North Carolina General Assembly, and therefore deny the same.

21. Intervenor-Defendants admit that the legislative history of Senate Bill 36 is public record and speaks for itself. Intervenor-Defendants have no knowledge of the remaining averments in Paragraph 21 of the Complaint concerning the procedural nature in which Senate Bill 36 was considered by the North Carolina General Assembly, and therefore deny the same.

22. Intervenor-Defendants admit that the legislative history of Senate Bill 36 is public record and speaks for itself. Intervenor-Defendants have no knowledge of the remaining averments in Paragraph 22 of the Complaint concerning the procedural nature in which Senate Bill 36 was considered by the North Carolina General Assembly, and therefore deny the same.

23. Intervenor-Defendants admit that the legislative history of Senate Bill 36 is public record and speaks for itself. Intervenor-Defendants have no knowledge of the remaining averments in Paragraph 23 of the Complaint concerning the procedural nature in which Senate Bill 36 was considered by the North Carolina General Assembly, and therefore deny the same.

24. Intervenor-Defendants admit that the legislative history of House Bill 263 is public record and speaks for itself. Intervenor-Defendants have no knowledge of the remaining averments in Paragraph 24 of the Complaint concerning the

procedural nature in which House Bill 263 was considered by the North Carolina General Assembly, and therefore deny the same.

25. The committee meeting agenda attached to the Complaint as Exhibit B speaks for itself and no further answer is necessary or appropriate. Intervenor-Defendants admit that the legislative history of House Bill 263 is public record and speaks for itself. To the extent that Paragraph 25 of the Complaint discusses other matters, the Intervenor-Defendants have no knowledge concerning the procedural nature in which House Bill 263 was considered by the North Carolina General Assembly, and therefore deny the same. Except as specifically addressed herein, any remaining allegations of Paragraph 25 of the Complaint are denied.

26. Intervenor-Defendants admit that the legislative history of House Bill 263 is public record and speaks for itself. Intervenor-Defendants have no knowledge of the remaining averments in Paragraph 26 of the Complaint concerning the procedural nature in which House Bill 263 was considered by the North Carolina General Assembly, and therefore deny the same.

27. Intervenor-Defendants admit that the legislative history of House Bill 263 is public record and speaks for itself. Intervenor-Defendants have no knowledge of the remaining averments in Paragraph 27 of the Complaint concerning the procedural nature in which House Bill 263 was considered by the North Carolina General Assembly, and therefore deny the same.

28. Intervenor-Defendants admit that the legislative history of House Bill 263 is public record and speaks for itself. Intervenor-Defendants have no knowledge of the remaining averments in Paragraph 28 of the Complaint concerning the procedural nature in which House Bill 263 was considered by the North Carolina General Assembly, and therefore deny the same.

29. Intervenor-Defendants admit that the legislative history of House Bill 263 is public record and speaks for itself. Intervenor-Defendants have no knowledge of the remaining averments in Paragraph 29 of the Complaint concerning the procedural nature in which House Bill 263 was considered by the North Carolina General Assembly, and therefore deny the same.

30. The conference committee substitute bill attached to the Complaint as Exhibit C speaks for itself and no further answer is necessary or appropriate. Intervenor-Defendants admit that the legislative history of House Bill 263 is public record and speaks for itself. To the extent that Paragraph 30 of the Complaint discusses other matters, the Intervenor-Defendants have no knowledge concerning the procedural nature in which House Bill 263 was considered by the North Carolina General Assembly, and therefore deny the same. Except as specifically addressed herein, any remaining allegations of Paragraph 30 of the Complaint are denied.

31. Intervenor-Defendants admit that the legislative history of House Bill 263 is public record and speaks for itself. Intervenor-Defendants have no knowledge of the remaining averments in Paragraph 31 of the Complaint concerning the

procedural nature in which House Bill 263 was considered by the North Carolina General Assembly, and therefore deny the same.

32. Intervenor-Defendants admit that certain matters set forth herein are public record.

Intervenor-Defendants have no knowledge of the averments in Paragraph 32 of the Complaint concerning the procedural nature in which House Bill 263 was considered by the North Carolina General Assembly, and therefore deny the same.

33. Intervenor-Defendants admit that the vote taken on July 2 for House Bill 263 is public record. Except as specifically addressed herein, any remaining allegations of Paragraph 33 of the Complaint are denied.

34. Session Law 2015-138 speaks for itself and no further answer is appropriate or necessary. Except as specifically addressed herein, any remaining allegations of Paragraph 34 of the Complaint are denied.

The Greensboro Act is Unconstitutional

35. Part 4 of Article 5 of Chapter 160A of the North Carolina General Statutes speaks for itself and no further answer is necessary or appropriate. Except as specifically addressed herein, any remaining allegations of Paragraph 35 of the Complaint are denied.

36. N.C. Gen. Stat. § 160A-101 speaks for itself and no further answer is necessary or appropriate. Except as specifically addressed herein, any remaining allegations of Paragraph 36 of the Complaint are denied.

37. N.C. Gen. Stat. § 160A-101 and 102 speak for themselves and no further answer is necessary or appropriate. Except as specifically addressed herein, any remaining allegations of Paragraph 37 of the Complaint are denied.

38. N.C. Gen. Stat. § 160A-102 and 103, and N.C. Gen. Stat. § 163-287 speak for themselves and no further answer is necessary or appropriate. Except as specifically addressed herein, any remaining allegations of Paragraph 38 are denied.

39. N.C. Gen. Stat. § 160A-101, 103, and 104, and N.C. Gen. Stat. § 163-287 speak for themselves and no further answer is necessary or appropriate. Except as specifically addressed herein, any remaining allegations of Paragraph 39 are denied.

40. N.C. Gen. Stat. § 160A-103 and 104 speak for themselves and no further answer is necessary or appropriate. Except as specifically addressed herein, any remaining allegations of Paragraph 40 of the Complaint are denied.

41. It is admitted the City of Greensboro is using a referendum to determine whether to extend council member terms limits. Previous referenda put forth are a matter of public record. Except as specifically addressed herein, any remaining allegations of Paragraph 41 of the Complaint are denied.

42. Session Law 2015-138 is a matter of public record and it speaks for itself, and therefore no further response is appropriate or necessary. Except as specifically

addressed herein, any remaining allegations of Paragraph 42 of the Complaint are denied.

43. Session Law 2015-138 is a matter of public record and it speaks for itself, and therefore no further response is appropriate or necessary. Except as specifically addressed herein, any remaining allegations of Paragraph 43 of the Complaint are denied.

44. Admitted. Session Law 2015-138 is a matter of public record and it speaks for itself, and therefore no further response is appropriate or necessary.

45. It is admitted that census data is a matter of public record and that the districts created by Session Law 2015-138 is a matter of public record, and that no further response is appropriate or necessary. Except as specifically addressed herein, any remaining allegations of Paragraph 45 of the Complaint are denied.

46. Intervenor-Defendants are without knowledge or sufficient information to form a belief about the truth of the averments in Paragraph 46, and therefore deny the same.

47. Intervenor-Defendants are without knowledge or sufficient information to form a belief about the truth of the averments in Paragraph 47, and therefore deny the same.

48. Intervenor-Defendants are without knowledge or sufficient information to form a belief about the truth of the averments in Paragraph 48, and therefore deny the same.

49. Denied. By way of further answer, it is stated that several Intervenor-Defendants are minorities and prominent members of their respective communities. The Intervenor-Defendants would argue that this strengthens the minority presence on the City Council by creating more minority-majority Greensboro City Council districts.

50. It is admitted that census data is a matter of public record and that the districts created by Session Law 2015-138 is a matter of public record, and that no further response is appropriate or necessary. Except as specifically addressed herein, any remaining allegations of Paragraph 50 of the Complaint are denied.

51. It is admitted that census data is a matter of public record and that voter registration of citizens and composition of the Greensboro City Council is all public record, and that no further response is appropriate or necessary. Except as specifically addressed herein, any remaining allegations of Paragraph 51 of the Complaint are denied.

52. It is admitted that census data is a matter of public record, that the districts created by Session Law 2015-138 is a matter of public record, and that the composition of the Greensboro City Council is a matter of public record. Therefore, no further response is appropriate or necessary. Except as specifically addressed herein, any remaining allegations of Paragraph 52 of the Complaint are denied.

53. It is admitted that the districts created by Session Law 2015-138 is a matter of public record, and that the composition of the Greensboro City Council is a matter

of public record. Therefore, no further response is appropriate or necessary.

Except as specifically addressed herein, any remaining allegations of Paragraph 53 of the Complaint are denied.

54. It is admitted that the districts created by Session Law 2015-138 is a matter of public record, and that the composition of the Greensboro City Council is a matter of public record. Therefore, no further response is appropriate or necessary.

Except as specifically addressed herein, any remaining allegations of Paragraph 54 of the Complaint are denied.

55. Denied.

56. Denied.

57. Denied.

58. Denied.

59. Denied.

60. It is admitted that census data is a matter of public record and that the districts created by Session Law 2015-138 is a matter of public record, and that no further response is appropriate or necessary. Except as specifically addressed herein, any remaining allegations of Paragraph 60 of the Complaint are denied.

61. Denied.

62. Denied. By way of further answer, it is alleged that the primary consideration was geographic representation of the city's various neighborhoods.

63. The voting records for Session Las 2015-138 are a matter of public record, and no further response is required or necessary. Except as specifically addressed herein, any remaining allegations of Paragraph 63 of the Complaint are denied.

64. Previous election results for the Greensboro City Council are a matter of public record, and no further response is required or necessary. Except as specifically addressed herein, any remaining allegations of Paragraph 64 of the Complaint are denied.

65. Denied.

66. Denied.

67. Denied.

68. Intervenor-Defendants do not possess information or have sufficient knowledge to formulate an answer on this question. However, to the extent that a response is required, the same is therefore denied.

69. Denied.

70. It is admitted that Session Law 2015-138 was ratified and implemented prior to the July 27, 2015 filing period. Except as specifically addressed herein, any remaining allegations of Paragraph 70 of the Complaint are denied.

71. It is admitted that Session Law 2015-138 altered the date of the elections. Except as specifically addressed herein, any remaining allegations of Paragraph 71 of the Complaint are denied.

72. It is admitted that Session Law 2015-138 altered the districts for the Greensboro City Council. Except as specifically addressed herein, any remaining allegations of Paragraph 72 of the Complaint are denied.

73. It is admitted that Session Law 2015-138 altered the date of the elections. Except as specifically addressed herein, any remaining allegations of Paragraph 73 of the Complaint are denied.

74. It is admitted that without injunctive relief the provisions in Session Law 2015-138 will take effect. Except as specifically addressed herein, any remaining allegations of Paragraph 74 of the Complaint are denied.

75. Denied.

First Cause of Action

76. Intervenor-Defendants reallege and reincorporate the foregoing answers to Paragraphs 1-75 as if more fully set forth herein.

77. N.C. Gen. Stat. § 160A-103 and 104 speak for themselves and no further answer is necessary or appropriate. Except as specifically addressed herein, any remaining allegations of Paragraph 77 of the Complaint are denied.

78. Session Law 2015-138 speaks for itself and no further answer is appropriate or necessary. Provided, that the subsequent Technical Corrections Bill amended the referendum provision in the law as opposed to what was previously set forth in Session Law 2015-138. Except as specifically addressed herein, any remaining allegations of Paragraph 78 of the Complaint are denied.

79. Session Law 2015-138 speaks for itself and no further answer is appropriate or necessary. Except as specifically addressed herein, any remaining allegations of Paragraph 79 of the Complaint are denied. However, by way of further answer, it is alleged upon information and belief that other municipalities are similarly situated with regard to a delayed referendum in North Carolina.

80. Denied.

81. The text of N.C. Const. Art. XIV § 3 speaks for itself. Except as specifically addressed herein, any remaining allegations of Paragraph 81 of the Complaint are denied.

82. Denied.

83. Denied.

Second Cause of Action

84. Intervenor-Defendants reallege and reincorporate the foregoing answers to Paragraphs 1-83 as if more fully set forth herein.

85. The allegations of this paragraph are argumentative or call for a legal conclusion and therefore no response is necessary or appropriate. The referenced constitutional provisions speak for themselves. Except as specifically addressed herein, any remaining allegations of Paragraph 85 of the Complaint are denied.

86. The allegations of this paragraph call for a legal conclusion and therefore no response is necessary or appropriate. Except as specifically addressed herein, any remaining allegations of Paragraph 86 of the Complaint are denied.

87. The allegations of this paragraph call for a legal conclusion and therefore no response is necessary or appropriate. Except as specifically addressed herein, any remaining allegations of Paragraph 87 of the Complaint are denied.

88. The allegations of this paragraph are argumentative or call for a legal conclusion and therefore no response is necessary or appropriate. Except as specifically addressed herein, any remaining allegations of Paragraph 88 of the Complaint are denied.

89. The allegations of this paragraph are argumentative or call for a legal conclusion and therefore no response is necessary or appropriate. Except as specifically addressed herein, any remaining allegations of Paragraph 89 of the Complaint are denied.

90. Denied.

91. Denied.

92. Denied.

Second Cause of Action

93. Intervenor-Defendants reallege and reincorporate the foregoing answers to Paragraphs 1-92 as if more fully set forth herein.

94. The allegations of this paragraph are argumentative or call for a legal conclusion and therefore no response is necessary or appropriate. Except as specifically addressed herein, any remaining allegations of Paragraph 94 of the Complaint are denied.

95. The allegations of this paragraph are argumentative or call for a legal conclusion and therefore no response is necessary or appropriate. Further, the Intervenor-Defendants lack sufficient knowledge to address whether race was a factor.

Except as specifically addressed herein, any remaining allegations of Paragraph 95 of the Complaint are denied.

96. The Intervenor-Defendants lack sufficient knowledge to address whether race was a factor. Except as specifically addressed herein, any remaining allegations of Paragraph 96 of the Complaint are denied.

97. Denied.

SECOND DEFENSE

Any allegations in paragraphs 1-97 of the Complaint not specifically admitted are denied.

THIRD DEFENSE

The City of Greensboro has no standing to assert claims under an equal protection theory as to legislation promulgated by the State of North Carolina. The State of North Carolina created the City of Greensboro as a municipal entity and the City derives its authority from the State. The State, generally, may not assert claims that are more properly asserted by an injured individual who has standing to seek a remedy. A Motion to Dismiss under Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b)(1) has been filed concurrently with this responsive

pleading by the Intervenor Defendants that sets forth this Third Defense in sufficient detail.

FOURTH DEFENSE

The Citizen Plaintiffs, as set forth and defined in the Complaint, do not have standing to assert a claim under the equal protection clause or under the “one person-one vote” theory because they have not suffered any injury hereunder. As such, the Citizen Plaintiffs are barred from asserting this claim.

FIFTH DEFENSE

The City of Greensboro’s claim for relief under the Fourteenth Amendment fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted and should be dismissed pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b)(6), in that Plaintiff City of Greensboro has not alleged a violation of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

SIXTH DEFENSE

The Citizen Plaintiffs’ claim for relief under the Fourteenth Amendment fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted and should be dismissed pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b)(6), in that the Citizen Plaintiffs have not alleged a violation of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

WHEREFORE, the Intervenor-Defendants move the Court:

- (1) That the Plaintiffs' Complaint is dismissed with prejudice, that judgment is entered for the Intervenor-Defendants on all claims, and that the Plaintiffs are sent hence without day;
- (2) That Intervenor-Defendants be awarded their attorneys' fees and costs; and
- (3) That the Intervenor-Defendants be awarded such other and further relief as this Court may deem just and proper.

NARRON, O'HALE AND
WHITTINGTON, P.A.

By: /s/ Benton Sawrey
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned attorney certifies that this day he has electronically filed the foregoing Answer in the above-titled action with the Clerk of Court using the CM/ECF system, which provided notice of such filing to:

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Respectfully submitted this 4th day of March, 2016.

/s/ Benton G. Sawrey
Benton G. Sawrey